A General Epiſtle

To the Diſperſed and

PERSECUTED FLOCK

OF

CHRIST JESUS

In the

DOMINION of ENGLAND

AND

All Parts and Regions where this ſhall come who have believed

IN

Chriſt the Light

OF THE

WORLD,

AND

Now ſuffers for his Names ſake.

Memento F. H. *mortem*

Printed in the Year 1665.

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Apr 10, 1936

A General Epiſtle to the Diſperſed and Perſecuted Flock of Chriſt Jeſus, &c.

DEarly beloved whom God hath called and redeemed out of the World, and the vanities thereof; to follow the Lamb in the Regeneration through the Croſs and ſuffering in this age, wherein the Whore, Beaſt and falſe Prophet, and all that have drunk of her Cup, and have received the mark of the Beaſt, and are led aſide to believe lyes, that proceeds out of the mouth of the time ſerving, flattering, deceitful workers of this Generation: who are all joyned together in their ſtrength and power to act every way againſt the Lamb and his meek Appearance, (who takes away the ſins of the World) and againſt all them that are made clean through his blood, and are come out of the pollutions of the World: and to make War againſt the remnant of the Seed of God who are begotten again to the lively hope of Chriſt Jeſus, and to the Inheritance that fades not away, and to root out and deſtroy and weary out through cruell ſufferings the Saints of the moſt High, that ſo the Prince of darkneſs might rule in his full Power and Authority in his Inſtruments and Servants without oppoſition or any gain-ſaying. And as God out of his everlaſting love hath redeemed and tranſlated many from great darkneſs wherein they have been held in the time of unbelief, into his marvelous light, to walk in it and to bring forth the fruites of the day, of light, faith and righteouſneſs to the praiſe and glory of his grace, who hath called them and tranſlated them for that very end, to ſhew forth his power and glory in the Earth; who have been quickned and raiſed by it out of the Grave that they might bear witneſs thereunto and teſtifie of it both in word and work againſt the World, and the God thereof, who now rules in the Children of Diſobedience; therefore is his wrath the more kindled and his fury grown great

againſt them that are departed out of his Kingdome and will not yeild their hearts and necks to be ſubject any more unto his yoak, by whom they have been enſlaved and held Captive, under many and divers luſts which the wrath of God is revealed againſt and to be revealed againſt, and becauſe they are made free by the brightneſs of the glorious riſing of the Sun of righteouſneſs in his power and quickning life in their hearts which hath broken his yoak of bondage, and deſtroyed the Law of ſin and death which ſometimes had power over them: but now being made Conquerors of them, through the power of Chriſt: The old Dragon the Deceiver of the Nations who is out of the Truth labours by all meanes to bring them back again to under his yoak; and his devices are not a few which are ſet on foot at this day to make all bow unto him, which the Children of light are not ignorant of who are and have been watchfull againſt the myſterious working of his power, within and alſo without in his Inſtruments, who have received great power from him to propagate his Kingdome that ſtands in wrath, evil doing and cruelty: And therefore all had need to watch and be circumſpect that they that are eſcaped be not inſnared and intangled again, leaſt their bondage be greater and the yoak heavyer then before; Therfore the Lord moveth often in my heart to exhort all unto watchfulneſs and diligence, and ſo much the more becauſe the dayes are perilous and the times dangerous, and the temptations many on every hand; ſo they that look out are in danger to be inſnared, and let in the Enemy, and doubts and fear and unbelief enter and queſtioning in the haſt; *Can God deliver, or will he deliver, or hath he any regard unto our afflictions*, and becauſe the time ſeemes long, and they cannot ſee to the end thereof their hearts failes, and their faith is in danger to be ſhaken and they looſe their ſtates, therefore it concerns every one *to watch and pray that they enter not into temptations*, neither be overcome with the wicked one, neither of the fadeing pleaſure, profit and eaſe that the Children of this World do enjoy, which is but for a time; and then is the beginning of endleſs miſery. Therefore all dearly beloved look over all the ſufferings, and troubles, and temptations, and neceſſities, and over the Devil and all his works; to the begining and to that have an eye which was before they had a being; to the Lord God everlaſting

laſting who made Heaven and Earth have an eye, and let your eye be fixed on him which deſtroyes the Devil and all his works, and will reward the workers of Iniquity according to their deeds with everlaſting torments.

Dearly beloved who have been under great ſufferings and looſers for Chriſts ſake and the Goſpels in this Age; like as many faithful witneſſes have been in former Ages: I am a ſufferer with you, and am ſenſible of your grieſes, afflictions, neceſſities, and tribulations which are many, and do bear and ſuffer with you all in my heart, and in the true ſence and feeling of you all, diſperſed every where, where God hath placed you in the Earth; my heart, ſoul, life and ſpirit breatheth forth unto you all; and your burden is mine, your afflictions are mine, your ſufferings is mine; I do weep with them that weep, I am ſorrowful with them that are ſorrowful; and that which is a grief and vexation unto the ſpirit of God in any; in the ſpirit of Chriſt which is but one in all I am burdened with them, and do bear a part of their grief, I ſpeak without auſtentation or glorying, for what have I to glory in any, but the Lord, or to rejoyce in, but that which all the World hates, becauſe it teſtifies againſt it; and therefore we are become the objects of ſcorn and hatred in this World by them that are of it, who glory in ſin, who rejoyce in Iniquity, whoſe end is deſtruction and perpetual miſery, and their rejoycing ſhall be turned into endleſs ſorrow and grief.

Elected of God, our portion in this World is to be ſufferers in it and by it; becauſe, God hath choſen us out of it and its nature; therefore, we are hated, deſpiced and perſecuted in our Generation, like as all the People of God were in former Generations, we cannot be exempted from drinking of the ſame Cup which Chriſt the Heir of all things drank; neither to be exempted from being Baptized into his ſuffering: And therefore Chriſt told his Diſciples, *In the World yee ſhall have trouble*; and the Apoſtles and Miniſters, and Believers in Chriſt did drink of the ſame, and were Baptized into the ſame Baptiſme, and therefore teſtified, *That them that will live Godly in Chriſt muſt ſuffer Perſecution*; for the World loves only the Children of it, but alwaies hated the Children of God, and them that were redeemed out of it, and they bore witneſs againſt it and the workes thereof;

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it's no new thing or ſtrange thing for it's that portion which all the Prophets and Holy Men of God were partakers of, Chriſt and the Apoſtles, and all true Believers in every Age; and the nearer any came to be unto God in their life and practice the more they were hated, and the more vilefied, ſlandered, and evil ſpoken of; ſometime by the *Jewes*, ſometime by the *Heathen*, and now by the Apoſtatized *Chriſtians*; for the Nature is one through all Ages, and diverſities of Names in Profeſſion doth not at all alter Man or Men at the heart; the *Jews* who profeſſed God in words, and cryed up the Temple and *Moſes*, and the Law in words, ſlew the Prophets, and laid falſe things to their charge; *Jeremiah* when he Propheſied againſt *Jeruſalem*, and ſpake to the *Princes* and *Rulers* when they were revolted from God in the dayes of *Zedekiah*, and denounced evil againſt the City and People becauſe of Tranſgreſſion, (they put him in the Dungeon, & where his feet ſticked in the Mire) and ſaid, *He was fallen away to the Caldeans, and did he alienate the heart of the* Jewes *from them, and their Law, and deſpiſed their Government.* Chriſt was accounted a *friend of Publicans* and *ſinners*, and *had a devil*, a *Tranſgreſſor of* Moſes *Law*, though he came to fulfill it; and an *enemy to Cæſar, and a blaſphemer*, and what not; Who ſaid ſo? the *Elders*, the *Doctors*, the *Rabies* and *Rulers* of the People; and they crucified him as an evil doer, though none could convince him of ſin; the Apoſtles of Chriſt as *ſeditious men, Ringleaders of Sects, Authors of Uproars, turners of the World upſide down*, as *diſobedient, enemies to peace*, as *diſcontented men with the preſent Lawes and Cuſtoms then eſtabliſhed, and judged as not fit to live.* And therefore, many ſuffered long for holding out their Teſtimony faithfully they had received, and laſt of all ſuffered death, not as Saints and Prophets but as evil doers at laſt; ſome by the *Jewes*, ſome by the *Heathen*: The Primitive Chriſtians of whom the World was not worthy of, were falſly accuſed by the *Romans*, *Heathens*, and *Pagans*, in the great Perſecutions that aroſe, were evil ſpoken of, and falſly repreſented, and rendred odious, and as objects of hatred through the envy of the Devil, becauſe they oppoſed his Kingdom of Darkneſs. *Tertullian* ſaith, *the Heathen commonly reputed the then* Primitive *Chriſtians inceſtious men, killers of Children, enemies of all mankind, enemies againſt the Gods, againſt the Emperours, againſt the Laws*; they made an Out-

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cry upon them, *Its not lawful they ſhould live*: And when any Judgment did befall them, *Auguſtine* ſaith, it was become a Proverb, *Our Rain failes us becauſe of theſe Chriſtians*. And *Euſebius* ſaith, *the Religion of Chriſt was called the Hereſie of Godleſs Chriſtians*. Likewiſe, after the name of Chriſt and Chriſtian became in repute and eſteem, many Hypocrites and Formaliſts took on the Name when it was countenanced by the Kings and Princes of the Earth, and then turned againſt them that were more in the life and power then they; as the *Bohemians* and the *Waldences*, and firſt Proteſtants in *Germany*; how were they branded with *hereſie, ſchiſme, as ſeditious, factious, enemies, to the Lawes, Church and State, and to Princes*; and how was the hatred of the *Pope* and *Emperour* kindled againſt them, and War raiſed upon them, and many ſuffered death, in their account as evil doers who perſecuted them: Likewiſe come nearer our own Age in the dayes of Queen *Mary*, how were the beſt of Men and the beſt of Chriſtians in that Age cenſured as *Enemies to the Queens Laws and Government, enemies to the Church, ſeditious hereticks*, and ſuch *as was not fit to live*; and therefore, many ſuffered in the cruel flames of fire, and did undergo many great torments and ſufferings, and laſt of all cruel deaths many ſuffered, and by them called Chriſtians, and yet ſlew him and perſecuted him in his Members. Laſt of all God hath brought us forth in our Age to bear witneſs unto him, and unto that life, power and light by which we are quickned and raiſed out of the grave of ſin and death to live unto him, and ſerving him in newneſs of life and to confeſs unto his holy name and power, by which we are ſaved, illuminated and directed, and to worſhip him in ſpirit and truth according to the manifeſtation of his ſpirit to us, and in us, & according to the Scriptures of Truth; for the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, Judge and all his holy Angels, and all juſt men who are anointed with the holy Unction, that knowes truth from error, whether we hold any other thing either in Doctrine or practice, but that which the Primitive Chriſtians bare witneſs of, and alſo the Scriptures bare witneſs unto, and that which we are perſwaded in our Conſciences by the unerring ſpirit of the Lord, which doth give us aſſurance of his acceptation and peace in our hearts.

And how often have we declared our ſelves both by word and writing,

writing, which is sufficiently manifest unto all, who have not wilfully closed their eyes, and stopped their eares against us; that we are of no other faith, hope or Religion, but that which Christ and his Apostles and Primitive Christians were of, which they did hold forth, both in Doctrine and practice as in respect of Worship: And how peaceably and humbly we have walked towards all men without seeking the hurt or detriment of any; thou Righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth knows, and according to the innocency of our hearts do thou judge us, and plead our Cause: And further, we have laboured that sin might be beat down, and that all every where might have been turned from it unto the living God, and that Righteousness might have been advanced, and truth have taken place in all Mens hearts both in word and deed; that Christ who is professed in words, might have ruled in the hearts of all men that make mention of him; that so Gods blessing might have been felt and known by all, and the Souls of all saved from the snares of Sathan, and out of that which the wrath of God and his Judgments comes upon; and Lord God of Heaven and Earth thou knows how our Adversaries have sought occasion against us, for no other cause but for the matter of worship of the living God, and unto Gods righteous Judgment seat we dare appeal, and do thou judge us and reward us according to our deserts if ever we have contrived the hurt of any man or men, or have sought to violate any righteous Law of Man which stands to the well governing of a Nation or Country, in the things that pertain to the World, yet how have we been *fasly represented, slandered, belyed, misreported, hated, backbited, persecuted and killed, as all the day long*; and *reputed we are as not fit to live in our Native Land, neither to enjoy our own Wives and Children*, a thing common to all men, Christian and Heathen; *neither to breath in the common air*. And how many grievous things hath been heaped, and are daily upon our backs that we are *factious, seditious, enemies to Magistrates, to the Ministers of Christ, Plotters, Conspirators against humane Government*; *enemies to the King, disobedient to the Lawes, broachers of heresie, authors of sedition, enemies to the Church and State*. And this the Devil who was a lyar, and a murderer, and a slanderer from the Beginning, he hath put a Lying spirit in the mouthes of some, and its entred into the hearts of others: And

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thus by them are the Powers of the Earth ſtirred up, and the Rulers to perſecute us without any juſt cauſe; *but this muſt not be counted perſecution*, for all the aforeſaid things and many more he hath perſwaded them we are guilty of, and therefore all that comes upon us *It muſt be reckoned as juſt*, and is an equal reward for our offences, and as juſt puniſhment for our tranſgreſſion and diſobedience; and ſo is no perſecution at all, and he hath wineſſes enough to teſtifie againſt us, as he had againſt Chriſt, all the *Scribes and Phariſees* and *the Leaders and Rulers of the People* with the *high Prieſts*, *Judas* and all to teſtifie againſt him *that he was not fit to live*, but all cry *away with him*; Even ſo now he hath all the *Rabbyes*, and *Elders*, and all *the time-ſerving Hirelings*, who ſerve not the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, but their own bellyes, and all *formal profeſſors* who profeſs him in words, but denyes him in works, and deſpiſes his croſs; with all *Drunkards*, *Lyars*, *and Swearers*, *all proud and covetous*, *all wanton and riotous*, *and all that loves the pleaſures of ſin for a ſeaſon*, all theſe will give their verdict againſt us.

There was and is a Generation *that called darkneſs light*, *and light darkneſs*, *and good evil*, *and evil good*; the judgment of all ſuch is falſe, and muſt be judged, and God who hath Immortality and dwells in the Light, with whom is no darkneſs at all, judgeth not as theſe men,& therefore let us never heed the cenſures and judgment of fallen men, who erre in their judgment, who cannot judge for God or his people but againſt them, let us count it a light thing to be judged or condemned by man, ſeeing the Lord juſtifies us in his work and ſervice, whereunto we are called, and all the aforeſaid crimes falſly laid to our charge he cleares us off, and we can with a good conſcience and pure heart bid defiance to all the powers of darkneſs, and all the enemies of God, and the Lord will clear us more and more as his power, glory and light appears in the Earth, and brings forth our Righteouſneſs as the Noon-day before our enemies, notwithſtanding all the falſe aſperſions,and reproaches caſt upon us in the mean time; If we be crowned with reproaches as Chriſt was with thorns, and evilly intreated for his names ſake, *let us bear all things*, *and endure all things with patience and hope to the end.* And though they cover us with bare skins, and with draff as the Heathen did the Primi-

tive Chriſtians, and ſo let all the wild beaſts upon us, let us give up our bodies as a ſacrifice unto the Lord, and for a witneſs unto his name and truth, that ſo we all may witneſs eternal reſt unto our Souls, and Everlaſting joy in his Heavenly habitation where all Perſecutors and evil doers are ſhut out.

Dearly Beloved of the Lord, I write not theſe things unto you becauſe you, many of you do not know them, but becauſe you know them to put you all in mind, and to ſtir up your hearts to the holy conſideration of theſe things in theſe perilous and trying times, and in very truth whatſoever doth lye within my view, that might conduce to any or all your good, I cannot withhold it from you, becauſe I know it is not only my duty, but I can truly ſay, *the love of Chriſt conſtrains me*, for my ſoul, heart and life is knit unto you in the everlaſting Covenant of life above all the Families of the Earth, and the more you are hated the more I love you, and the more you are deſpiſed and ſet at naught, the more I prize you, and the more you are compaſſed about on every ſide with tryals and afflictions, the more my ſoul is poured forth unto the Lord for you, that you may be kept ſtedfaſt in the faith and hope in the Lord unto the end, that you may receive his reward the Crown of Glory which is laid up for all them that love the Appearance of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and in the Faith do overcome.

And bleſſed and happy are all they that keep their Garments clean in this polluted time wherein wickedneſs walkes with open face, and ungodlineſs with an outſtretched neck, and is exalted in great heigth, and doth corrupt many, and the Earth is growing ripe with wickedneſs for deſtruction, *for the proud are counted happy, and they that work wickedneſs is admired and gloryed in as the only brave men of theſe times*; which they make evil through yeilding themſelves ſervants unto ſin and their luſts, eaſe, and worldly enjoyments, and immediately drop down into eternal perdition: *And its time for the Lord to ariſe and plead with all Fleſh, for Men make void his Law*, and goes about to eſtabliſh their own in oppoſition thereunto, *for violence, cruelty, and hardneſs of heart, and perſecution are the forerunners of deſolation and deſtruction*: theſe things do generally abound all is ſecure and at eaſe, hardneſs of heart is generally over people, and clearly to me it doth

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preſage Judgment; tenderneſs of heart and ſpirit is generally loſt among people, and the moſt have made ſhipwrack of all their Hope, Faith, and Profeſſion to pleaſe the time and men of this Generation, who is perverſe and froward, they have been treacherous to God, and to their own Souls, and cannot do good to his people; Keep as much as in you lies out of their ſpirit and manners, for they corrupt. And though Gods Judgments be abroad in the Land, and his Anger kindled and broken forth, yet few enquires the cauſe, or ſaith, *what have I done?* but if any do enquire, it is generally in that dark ſpirit that leads them to evil, which God hides his councel from, and will not be found of, and yet they make concluſions, and gives judgment as the Heathen of old, if any **Peſtilence**, **Famine**, or **Drought**, or **Judgment** came upon them, they ſaid, *the Chriſtians was the cauſe*, and ſo ſtirred up Perſecution againſt them; the like the **Dreamers** of this age in their *mock-faſts* and *humiliations*, they ſay, *hereſie is the cauſe*, and becauſe all does not conform, and are not willing to ſubmit to the changable inſtitutions of Men, though never ſo repugnant to the Law of God; they tell the Magiſtrates, *the Phanaticks and Quakers is the cauſe*, and ſo they faſt for ſtrife, and to kindle debate, and to ſtir up Perſecution; and they ſeem to cleave ſo cloſe to the Magiſtrates that will force and exact gain for them, and give them large pay, they will cry them up as the higher power, that all is to ſubmit unto, in all things under pain of condemnation, and they will cry them up, and dance, and clap their hands, and rejoyce as *Iſrael* did about the *Calfe*, when they had forgotten God; ſo the Lord is provoked more and more, and they think by rooting out his people if poſſible, will ſtay his Judgments; it's lamentable to ſee what blindneſs is over the hearts of the *Seers* of this Generation, who cry *peace, peace*, and how People are given up to believe their lyes, and to hardneſs of heart, and never conſider their own eſtate, neither the afflictions of *Joſeph* is remembred.

Another thing alſo hath been in my heart many weeks, and a query hath been in my ſelf, and I know hath been on many ſpirits why in this common Calamity and in Gods Viſitation of the City of *London*, and many other places of this Nation, that they that

have ſuffered ſo greatly, ſo long and ſo faithfully, and have borne ſuch a Teſtimony for the Lord, why alſo they ſhould be taken away among the Reſt? ſeeing the Lord was able to deliver, and alſo command his Deſtroying Angel to paſs over as it pleaſed him, and ſpare and take away as he pleaſed, and why it ſhould not be wholly upon his enemies, and upon them that called not upon his name in truth and righteouſneſs? I have had many ſad thoughts of heart, and have waited upon the Lord concerning theſe things, with ſupplications and teaſs concerning his afflicted People, and concerning his Name and Truth, and this ſatisfaction I have received in my ſelf, and do communicate unto you.

Firſt, Of all it is ſaid, *that Paul ſtayed and preached the Goſpel at Epheſus two yeares, ſo that not only them of Epheſus but all* Aſia *heard the Word of God, both Jewes and Greeks, and many were gathered unto God, and believed, and the reſt were hardened.* When I conſidered this, that not only two years but twelve years that Citty of *London* hath heard the Word of the Living God declared and publiſhed plentifully in it, and the everlaſting Goſpel of Chriſt in the demonſtration of the Spirit, and with power, in ſo much that the ſound went through and through, and many believed, and the reſt were hardened, having loſt the day of their viſitation, but alaſs it was but a few, conſidering the labour and travel, and conſidering ſo many thouſands who counted the things of God a ſleight matter: and for them that were worthy, and did believe, they were hated and deſpiſed, and evilly entreated with the moſt, and ſhut up in holes, and miſerable bonds and priſons, and lingering torments, which often time was the cauſe of their death, whoſe lives God is requiring at the hands of that place; and the Meſſengers of God was mocked, abuſed, and evilly entreated, and ſhut up in bonds till death and wickedneſs did abound, and peoples hearts grew hard in eaſe, riches pride, and vain glory, till the wrath of God broke forth and cut down thouſands in his diſpleaſure, and this was ſeen and foreſeen full three whole years and upwards by ſome of the faithful ſervants of God who laid down their lives in bonds

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in that City, and are gathered unto the Lord, and alſo ſome who remain in the body unto this day, and it was prophefied of, and the City was warned thereof, Rulers and People, but the moſt made a mock of it, till the juſt judgment of God ſeized upon it.

Secondly, The Lord took away theſe faithfull men of God, *Edward Burrough*, *Richard Hubberthorne*, and *George Foxe Junior*, who had been much converſant there, who were faithfull Watchmen, and prevailed often with the Lord till they were ſhut up in Bonds for all their ſore travel and labour amongſt the Inhabitants thereof; and that place being unworthy of them any more, he delivered them and took them away to himſelf, from the evil to come, that they had ſeen and prophefied of; that they might ſee none of that miſery that is now come.

Thirdly, They were gathered unto the Lord as a token and ſigne unto them that believed; of many following after and of their diſſolution.

Fourthly, The Lord did fore-know and fore-ſee, and alſo had determined evil againſt that City, and that which is now come to paſs, and that this Generation, notwithſtanding all the *entreaties*, *woeings*, *warnings*, and *exhortations* which they had and ſlighted, and that they would proceed on to more miſchief and perſecution in preſumption againſt God, and his People; and are yet determined, and have ſaid in their hearts, *though the bricks be fallen down, we will build with hewn ſtone*; to fortifie themſelves that their end might not faile, which the Lord God will blaſt and confound; and though Friends have borne their iniquity they ſhall at laſt bear it themſelves, and know the reward thereof, and have none to help; ſo the Lord hath taken away many in his love and mercy from the evil to come, and hath freed them from further miſery, and hath Tranſlated them out of the reach of all their Enemies.

Fifthly, Seeing they have ſuffered long and faithfully in that

that place and elſewhere, and hath borne a living Teſtimony many to the loſs of their lives, and to their ruinating in this World againſt the Abominations that did abound, and their righteous ſouls was vexed as *Lots* was with the *Sodomites*, the Lord hath conſidered and hath ſaid, *it is enough, your afflictions I will end, and take you into my reſt and peace, out of the reach of the Oppreſſor.*

Sixthly, For the fruſtrating of the purpoſe of them who *decreed that unrighteous decree for baniſhment*, that it may not profit them, neither anſwer their end and unrighteouſneſs, and the Lord, the Lord hath cut them ſhort of their purpoſe, and will cut them ſhort of their hope, and in the end bring their councel to nought, for that which is formed againſt the Lord ſhall not proſper.

Seventhly, For the hardening the hearts of this Generation who have deviſed miſchief from the Womb, and have gone aſtray as ſoon as they were born, after ſo many warnings and evident tokens of his hand againſt them, and of his diſpleaſure which hath been ſet at nought, and yet are reſolved to go on to root out the heritage of God; I ſay that their hearts might be hardened, and their eyes cloſed that they may not diſcern betwixt the end of the Righteous and the wicked, nor ſee a difference in their ſtates, but as one dies, ſo dies the other as to the outward appearance; though you beloved know a difference both in life and death; and I do believe many who have laid down the body, and put off this Earthly Tabernacle have given great Teſtimony of Gods love unto them of his favour, peace, and acceptation in the in the latter end; in this which I have ſaid, I am ſatisfied, and therefore could not but ſignifie the ſame unto you, that we might not ſorrow concerning them that die in the faith and ſleep in Chriſt, as them who are without hope, for theſe reſt from their labours, and their faith, works and life ſhall live, and we have and enjoy their ſpirit and life, ſo it is only perſonal abſence of this Earthly Tabernacle that we want, ſo in that all be comforted.

Laſt of all, The wayes of the Lord are unſearchable, but as he

Susana Cogniot is my name
and with my pen I write the

he reveales them to them that fear him, and whatever may be manifeſt to any other, this I am certainly perſwaded of, that God will have honour and glory through all theſe things as it ſhall be in the end for the proſperity of the Goſpel of truth, and I am perſwaded of this, though the Lord ſhould permit many to be deſtroyed outwardly of all they enjoy, yet they are reſolved to truſt in him for ever.

And though the day be dark and gloomy, and the Devil be let looſe to try the faith of them that dwell upon the Earth, and the wrath of the wicked be great, yet the bond is ſet that they cannot paſs, and though we that yet remain alive to this day were all diſſolved and rowled in the duſt together, which is the end of all fleſh, yet that life and power which we have believed in, and that everlaſting truth which we have teſtified of, and ſuffered for ſhall never be extinguiſhed or rooted out, but ſhall take up other perſons and bodies from Generation to Generation, while Sun and Moon endureth, in this be all aſſured and comforted in the Lord, and chearful in your ſufferings, and comfort and ſtrengthen one another: in the royal ſeed of God all live and dwell, (which cannot bow to the ſeed of the Bond-woman) which hath the promiſe of life and Immortality, and everlaſting bleſſedneſs; and all look unto the Lord over all and above all the rage and wrath of men, and the afflictions of this preſent life, and feel that which is without end.

The God of power be with you, and comfort you in the midſt of all your trials, and preſerve you that your faith fail not, is the earneſt deſire of him whoſe heart is knit unto the Lord and all his ſuffering People, in the Everlaſting Covenant of life and peace: Pray all unto the Lord without ceaſing, that you may be able to follow the Lord though through the valley of the ſhadow of death; the peace of God fill all your hearts that you may rejoyce in the Lord and truſt in him for ever.

16th. of the 8th. Moneth,
1665.

Yours in Life or Death,
F. H.

THE END.